



30 November 2017

Update from the Chair

Last week we hosted a meeting for local veterinarians in Hamilton. It was a really positive evening, and we want to thank everyone who came along for making the evening a success.

We talked at length about the proposed changes to the Veterinary Medicines section of the Code. There will be an impact on the profession, and industry, as a result of these changes, but we believe that the changes are necessary and relevant.

Thanks to everyone who sent feedback on the proposed changes. We've had a lot of comments, which we're reviewing at the moment.

We also introduced our plans for a new website. We're excited about this very positive change. We hope to have our new website up and running early next year.

The Council met during the day with another busy agenda. Topics included:

- roadshows with NZVA and ACVM in 2018
- the possibility of a new Veterinarians Act. Work is underway on a paper outlining the issues, which we'll present to the new Minister early next year.
- the possibility of an advanced practitioner status. RCVS introduced this in the UK several years ago. The Council agreed to do some work on the potential value of a similar scheme in New Zealand.
- discussions on sentience and how this is relevant to the Animal Welfare section of the Code.

The Council also resolved to keep your APC fee the same this year. Prudent financial management means that we've been able to avoid any increase. Thanks to staff and the Finance and Risk Committee for making this happen.

It was great to see so many of you in Hamilton. Once again, thanks for coming along for such a positive conversation.

This will be my last update for the year. Enjoy your summer, and any holidays you may be taking. I'll be in touch in the new year with another update from your Council.

Nick Twyford
Chair